



Arthur "Sonney" Raymond Gerds

March 29, 1926 - June 26, 2015

Arthur Raymond Gerds, a longtime resident of Siskiyou County, passed away on June 26, 2015 after a long illness.

Art was born on March 29, 1926 in Hilt to Arthur and Mary Gerds. After his father's death, his mother remarried and moved to Klamath Falls, where she gave birth to David Wissenbach. Art's mother passed away in 1941, so Art and David went to live with his grandparents in Hilt.

Art served in the U.S. Army during World War II in the Pacific Theater. He was a member of the Second Squadron of the Seventh Cavalry. He served in the liberation of New Guinea and the Philippines. His squadron was the first Allied unit to enter Tokyo and raise the American Flag since the start of the war in 1941.

Returning from the service, Art attended OIT in Klamath Falls. Art married Delores Mendes in 1953. Art worked for Fruit Growers Mill in Hilt as an electrician and janitor for many years. The family also were the janitors at Hilt Elementary School. Art was an avid fisherman and softball player in his younger days in Hilt. When the mill closed in 1974, the family moved to Yreka, where Art worked for Evans Construction and as janitor at Yreka Elementary until he retired.

Art is survived by his wife of 62 years, Delores Gerds, and a son, Art Gerds, both of Yreka, and a brother, David Wissenbach and his family of White City, Oregon.

No services will be held, per his wishes. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Fairchild Medical Center, 444 Bruce Street, Yreka, CA 96097 or Madrone Hospice, 255 Collier Circle, Yreka, CA 96097.